Science Research in Universities under the Chairmanship of Professor M M Sharma set up by the Central Government, has observed that there is no formal linkage between universities and national-level research institutions and the same should be promoted through joint research projects and training and that the number of PhDs in Sciences and Engineering disciplines from Indian Universities is quite low *viz-a-vis* the number of M Sc / B Tech when compared to what it is in developed countries.

(d) The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Indian higher education is estimated to be about 12.4 %, as compared to estimated world average of 26 % and 55% in developed countries.

Unexpensive education for children

2683. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangement being made by Government to provide unexpensive and best education for the children from poor families;

(b) whether Government is going to make any arrangement for providing low cost education in private and Government schools and institutes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Article 21A, as inserted by the Constitution (Eighty-Sixth Amendment) Act, 2002, provides for free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a fundamental right in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.

Consequently, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2008, has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill, *inter-alia*, provides that every child in the age group of six to fourteen years shall have the right to free and compulsory education in a neighborhood school till completion of elementary education.

In Government and Government-aided private secondary schools across the country, the fees charged are generally nominal.

Transparency in higher education

2684. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to regulate fees, admission etc. of deemed universities;

(b) whether Government also proposes to probe complaints of lack of transparency in higher education; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The University Grants Commission (UGC), in its meeting

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.